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13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
14 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

16 ARISTOCRAT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.  
and ARISTOCRAT TECHNOLOGIES  
17 AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.,

18 Plaintiffs,

19 vs.

20 LIGHT & WONDER, INC., LNW  
GAMING, INC., and SCIPLAY  
21 CORPORATION,

22 Defendants.

23 CASE NO.: 2:24-cv-00382-JCM-MDC

24 **DEFENDANTS' OPPOSITION TO**  
25 **PLAINTIFFS' OBJECTIONS TO ORDER**  
26 **GRANTING MOTION TO STAY**  
27 **DISCOVERY**

1           Defendants Light & Wonder, Inc., LNW Gaming, Inc., and SciPlay Corporation  
 2 (collectively, “L&W”) hereby submit their Opposition to the Objections (“Objection”) to the Order  
 3 Granting Motion to Stay Discovery and Denying Stipulated Discovery Plan and Scheduling Order  
 4 (“Order”) filed by Plaintiffs Aristocrat Technologies Inc. and Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty  
 5 Ltd. (collectively, “Aristocrat”) and respectfully request that this Court deny Aristocrat’s Objection  
 6 and affirm Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s Order (ECF No. 51).

7 **I. INTRODUCTION**

8           After repeated unsuccessful attempts to rush discovery *before* this Court has scrutinized its  
 9 claims, Aristocrat now insists that Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s Order staying discovery somehow  
 10 falls outside of the Court’s wide discretion to manage and protect L&W from unduly burdensome  
 11 discovery in the absence of well-pled claims. But rather than articulate any legitimate legal error,  
 12 Aristocrat’s Objection simply re-asserts its same arguments in opposition to the stay and asks the  
 13 Court to reconsider. However, Aristocrat cannot deny that Magistrate Judge Couvillier fully  
 14 weighed all relevant factors, including the merits of L&W’s pending Motion to Dismiss, the undue  
 15 burden of Aristocrat’s plainly far-reaching discovery requests, and the absence of any legitimate  
 16 prejudice to Aristocrat, and concluded that a stay of discovery best serves the interests of Rule 1 of  
 17 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and was supported by ample good cause. Aristocrat’s  
 18 disagreement with the result of Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s well-reasoned analysis of these  
 19 relevant factors does not provide grounds for reversal. Based on this record, a stay of discovery  
 20 pending L&W’s Motion to Dismiss remains the most effective means “to secure the just, speedy,  
 21 and inexpensive determination” of this case. Fed. R. Civ. P. 1. Accordingly, Aristocrat’s Objection  
 22 should be denied and Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s Order should remain in effect.

23 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

24           Issuance of a discovery stay is an appropriate exercise of a court’s “wide discretion in  
 25 controlling discovery[.]” *Tradebay, LLC v. eBay, Inc.*, 278 F.R.D. 597, 601 (D. Nev. 2011) (citing  
 26 *Little v. City of Seattle*, 863 F.2d 681, 685 (9th Cir. 1988)). Accordingly, a reviewing district judge  
 27 may only reconsider a magistrate judge’s issuance of a stay where it has been shown that the

1 magistrate judge's exercise of discretion "is clearly erroneous or is contrary to law." Fed. R. Civ.  
 2 P. 72(a); *see also* LR IB 3-1(a) ("A district judge may reconsider any pretrial matter referred to a  
 3 magistrate judge . . . when it has been shown the magistrate judge's order is clearly erroneous or  
 4 contrary to law."). This standard of review "is significantly deferential, requiring a definite and  
 5 firm conviction that a mistake has been committed." *Sec. Farms v. Int'l Bhd. of Teamsters*, 124  
 6 F.3d 999, 1014 (9th Cir. 1997) (quotation omitted). Importantly, under this standard, the district  
 7 judge "may not simply substitute its judgment" for that of the magistrate judge. *Grimes v. City &*  
 8 *Cnty. of S.F.*, 951 F.2d 236, 241 (9th Cir. 1991).

9 **III. ARGUMENT**

10 Aristocrat's surface-level challenges to Magistrate Judge Couvillier's Order do not establish  
 11 clear error or findings "contrary to law." Instead, Aristocrat can only articulate its disagreement  
 12 with Magistrate Judge Couvillier's findings and conclusion. But those findings and conclusion rest  
 13 on firm support, and Aristocrat's emphatic plea that the District Judge "substitute its judgment" in  
 14 place of Magistrate Judge Couvillier's does not satisfy the stringent standard required to overturn  
 15 the Order. Magistrate Judge Couvillier fully evaluated the merits of L&W's pending Motion to  
 16 Dismiss, the undue burden of commencing discovery before a determination has been made about  
 17 whether Aristocrat has stated a claim, and any purported prejudice to Aristocrat resulting from a  
 18 stay, and concluded that good cause supports a stay of discovery. Aristocrat's attacks on the  
 19 margins of Magistrate Judge Couvillier's analysis do not render the Order erroneous. Accordingly,  
 20 Aristocrat's Objection should be denied.

21 **A. APPLICATION OF THE "PRAGMATIC APPROACH" IS NOT  
 22 "CLEARLY ERRONEOUS" OR "CONTRARY TO LAW"**

23 Aristocrat wrongly suggests that Magistrate Judge Couvillier's application of the  
 24 "pragmatic approach"—as opposed to Aristocrat's preferred, more stringent "preliminary peek"  
 25 standard—warrants reversing Magistrate Judge Couvillier's Order. However, at least several  
 26 judges in this District have recognized that the "pragmatic approach" is not only appropriate, but in  
 27 many ways, preferred to application of the "preliminary peek" framework because the "preliminary

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1 peek” test “is often inaccurate and inefficient.” *Schrader v. Wynn Las Vegas, LLC*, No. 2:19-CV-  
2 02159-JCM-BNW, 2021 WL 4810324, at \*3 (D. Nev. Oct. 14, 2021). Indeed, Aristocrat cites no  
3 authority suggesting application of the “pragmatic approach” is “clearly erroneous or contrary to  
4 law.” Courts have routinely applied both standards, and in any event, application of a contested  
5 legal standard does not make a decision “clearly erroneous or contrary to law,” particularly where  
6 the decision relates to the magistrate judge’s “wide discretion in controlling discovery[.]”  
7 *Tradebay, LLC*, 278 F.R.D. at 601; *see also PlayUp, Inc. v. Mintas*, 635 F. Supp. 3d 1087, 1097  
8 n.7 (D. Nev. 2022) (explaining that “it is not error to apply the preliminary peek analysis to a motion  
9 to stay discovery” and “the cited cases charting a different path themselves are not binding on any  
10 other judge within this District.”).

11 To the extent Aristocrat suggests that Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s application of the  
12 “pragmatic approach” was “impermissibly low,” Objection at 4, this argument is without merit. The  
13 pragmatic approach requires a showing of “good cause” guided by “Rule 1 of the Federal Rules of  
14 Civil Procedure.” *See, e.g., Jimenez v. GEICO Secure Ins. Co.*, No. 2:23-CV-01290-APG-BNW,  
15 2023 WL 8254492, at \*4 (D. Nev. Nov. 29, 2023). That is exactly the analysis Magistrate Judge  
16 Couvillier engaged in here. *See* Order at 5 (explaining that “[t]he good cause element under the  
17 pragmatic approach is sufficiently broad to allow a court to operate within its discretion and the  
18 objectives of Fed. R. Civ. P. 1”). The Order fully weighs the merits of L&W’s Motion to Dismiss,  
19 the undue burden of Aristocrat’s broad-reaching discovery requests in light of L&W’s Motion to  
20 Dismiss, and any potential prejudice to Aristocrat, before concluding that good cause supports a  
21 stay. These same considerations have supported numerous discovery stays under the pragmatic  
22 approach, and nothing suggests that Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s good cause analysis is any less  
23 well-reasoned. *See, e.g., Speaks v. Employers Holdings Inc.*, No. 2:23-CV-0068-GMN-BNW,  
24 2023 WL 4561451, at \*4 (D. Nev. July 17, 2023) (granting motion to stay discovery, despite finding it  
25 was “not convinced that Plaintiff will be unable to proceed with *any* of the claims” subject to  
26 dismissal, because additional discovery was unnecessary to decide the motion to dismiss and given  
27

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1 the expense of defending against all claims); *Gibson v. MGM Resorts Int'l*, No. 2:23-CV-00140-  
2 MMD-DJA, 2023 WL 4455726, at \*4 (D. Nev. July 11, 2023) (granting motion to stay discovery  
3 because the dispositive motions “can be decided without further discovery” and “Defendants have  
4 established good cause by pointing to the burden and expense of discovery”).

5 Moreover, Aristocrat does not actually establish that application of the preliminary peek test  
6 would have changed the result here. As discussed below in more detail, Magistrate Judge Couvillier  
7 properly found that L&W had “convinced the Court about the merits of their pending Motion to  
8 Dismiss,” *see* Order at 6, which supports good cause for a stay even under the preliminary peek  
9 framework. Accordingly, even a finding that application of the pragmatic approach was “clearly  
10 erroneous or contrary to law”—which it was not—does not necessitate reversing the Order.

11 **B. THE ORDER PROPERLY CONSIDERED L&W'S MERITORIOUS  
12 MOTION TO DISMISS**

13 Aristocrat fails to articulate how Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s consideration of the merits  
14 of L&W’s Motion to Dismiss constitutes clear error. Instead, Aristocrat merely *disagrees* with  
15 Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s finding that the Motion to Dismiss is meritorious, and urges that the  
16 Order erred because L&W’s Motion to Dismiss is “non-dispositive” and consists of “notice-based”  
17 arguments that “Aristocrat could easily overcome . . . in an amended complaint.” Objection at 5-  
18 7. Aristocrat is wrong on each account.

19 *First*, as discussed at length in L&W’s Stay Motion and Reply, L&W’s Motion to Dismiss  
20 is indisputably dispositive of each of Aristocrat’s claims. *See* ECF No. 48 at 6. Specifically,  
21 L&W’s Motion to Dismiss explains at length that Aristocrat’s Complaint fails to plausibly allege  
22 trade secret misappropriation. ECF No. 34 at 15–19. The Motion to Dismiss further explains that  
23 Aristocrat’s copyright and trade dress allegations are so nebulous that L&W is *unable* to fully  
24 address the plausibility or legal sufficiency of those claims *until* Aristocrat has sufficiently pled  
25 the bounds of the allegedly infringing and infringed elements. *Id.* at 20 n.13, 26. Additionally,  
26 L&W’s Motion to Dismiss explains that Aristocrat’s trade dress claim is precluded by copyright  
27 law, and that Aristocrat fails to plausibly allege that its alleged trade dress has acquired

1 distinctiveness or is non-functional. *Id.* at 27–28. Accordingly, L&W’s Motion to Dismiss is not  
 2 premised solely on “notice-based” arguments. Objection at 7. And in any event, Aristocrat cites  
 3 no authority suggesting that its failure to fairly notice its claims cannot provide good cause for a  
 4 discovery stay, particularly where “[t]he purpose of [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6)] is  
 5 to enable defendants to challenge the legal sufficiency of complaints without subjecting themselves  
 6 to discovery.” *Rutman Wine Co. v. E. & J. Gallo Winery*, 829 F.2d 729, 738 (9th Cir. 1987).

7 **Second**, Aristocrat’s self-serving assumption that it *will eventually* be able to “progress past  
 8 the pleading stage,” Objection at 7, does not establish that the Order clearly erred in finding that  
 9 the merits of L&W’s Motion to Dismiss support good cause for a stay. Courts in this District have  
 10 routinely explained that, under the pragmatic approach, a stay of discovery is well-grounded where  
 11 the Motion to Dismiss has “the potential to simplify, or at least solidify, the parties, the claims, and  
 12 the scope of discovery.” *Jaramillo v. Area 15 Las Vegas LLC*, No. 2:21-CV-00891-RFB-BN, 2021  
 13 WL 5826312, at \*4 (D. Nev. Dec. 8, 2021). Moreover, “even if the motions are not completely  
 14 dispositive, courts will stay discovery where resolution of the motions will impact the number of  
 15 defendants and legal theories at issue which will in turn impact the scope of discovery.” *Apothio,  
 16 LLC v. Kern Cnty.*, No. 1:20-CV-00522-JLT-CDB, 2023 WL 2655847, at \*5 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 27,  
 17 2023) (internal quotations omitted). Thus, even if some version of Aristocrat’s claims ultimately  
 18 proceed past the pleading stage, the fact that those claims will look much different as a result of  
 19 L&W’s Motion to Dismiss entirely supports good cause for a stay. Indeed, the far-reaching and  
 20 overly-broad discovery requests Aristocrat served on L&W illustrate that commencing discovery  
 21 based on Aristocrat’s operative claims before they are narrowed, simplified, or solidified will result  
 22 in significant wasted time and effort to search for, review, and produce information that will  
 23 ultimately have no relevance to Aristocrat’s eventual amended claims. *See Schrader*, 2021 WL  
 24 4810324, at \*5 (finding good cause for discovery stay because “beginning discovery now will likely  
 25 lead to unnecessary or duplicative discovery”).

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1 Conversely, Aristocrat—relying on cases employing the more-stringent “preliminary peek”  
 2 standard—incorrectly suggests that issuing a stay requires a court to peer into the future and decide  
 3 whether any number of hypothetical amendments to its operative complaint could cure its deficient  
 4 claims *before* L&W has had the opportunity to challenge any of those amended allegations in a  
 5 motion to dismiss.<sup>1</sup> As L&W previously explained, Aristocrat’s proposed framework would require  
 6 courts to effectively assume what the defendant’s arguments would be in opposition to a  
 7 hypothetical amended complaint, and weigh the merits of those arguments before the defendant has  
 8 even had the opportunity to present them. ECF No. 48 at 7-8. Aristocrat cites no authority  
 9 suggesting such a tenuous, crystal-ball-analysis is required for a court to exercise its “wide  
 10 discretion” to issue a discovery stay. *See Order at 7 n.2* (“Plaintiffs also fail to cite authority . . .  
 11 for the proposition that discovery should not be stayed when there is a possibility a plaintiff will be  
 12 given leave to amend in response to a motion to dismiss.”); *Heck v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, No. 22-cv-  
 13 03986-JSW, 2022 WL 16579372, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 1, 2022) (“[T]he fact that Plaintiff could  
 14 possibly remedy any deficient allegations with leave to amend is not germane to the question before  
 15 the Court on a motion to stay discovery: whether Defendants’ motion is *potentially* dispositive of  
 16 the entire case.”) (emphasis in original). Indeed, even the court advocating the “preliminary peek”  
 17 approach in *Flynn v. Nevada* only examined the propriety of a discovery stay *after* the plaintiff  
 18 amended its original complaint following dismissal, and significantly narrowed and specified its  
 19 allegations to address the deficiencies in its claims as originally pled. 345 F.R.D. 338, 352 (D. Nev.  
 20 2024). Accordingly, Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s refusal to consider Aristocrat’s hypothetical  
 21 amended complaint—particularly where leave to amend is not “automatic”—is not clear error.  
 22

23 <sup>1</sup> Notably, Aristocrat’s insistence that a court “must be convinced that the plaintiff will be unable  
 24 to state a claim for relief,” Objection at 6, is an application of the “preliminary peek” framework,  
 25 and is not the appropriate standard under the pragmatic approach. *See Schrader*, 2021 WL  
 26 4810324, at \*5 (“[T]his court’s ‘preliminary peek’ at the merits of the underlying motion is not  
 27 intended to prejudge its outcome. Rather, this court’s role is to evaluate the propriety of an order  
 28 staying or limiting discovery.”). While L&W’s Motion to Stay illustrates that the Motion to  
 Dismiss satisfies either standard, Aristocrat’s suggestion that Magistrate Judge Couvillier is  
 required to find “that Aristocrat ‘will be unable to state a claim for relief,’” Objection at 6, is  
 incorrect under the pragmatic approach.

**C. MAGISTRATE JUDGE COUVILLIER DID NOT ERR IN FINDING A STAY WOULD NOT PREJUDICE ARISTOCRAT**

Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s Order considered and rejected the same arguments on prejudice that Aristocrat repeats in its Objection. Aristocrat’s dissatisfaction with Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s conclusion—that a discovery stay would not prejudice Aristocrat—does not establish clear error.

Tellingly, Aristocrat cites no authority in support of its arguments that the Order errs by finding that Aristocrat would not be prejudiced by a stay. This makes sense, given that none of Aristocrat’s purported harm is the type that courts typically find relevant to a stay motion, such as “the case is old and evidence is getting stale, a witness is sick and may die before discovery begins, the public has an interest in the speedy resolution of the issues presented, [Aristocrat’s] resources and ability to wait for a judgment, etc.” *Jimenez*, 2023 WL 8254492, at \*3; *Gibson*, 2023 WL 4455726, at \*4 (“Plaintiffs have also identified no reasons—like the ill health or age of a witness, for example—why the Court should speed the parties along in discovery.”).

Instead, Aristocrat only articulates purported prejudice that is conditional upon its success on the merits of its claims; that is, alleged “irreparable harm that will result from L&W’s ongoing misappropriation[.]” Objection at 8. But given that the Order recognizes the merits of L&W’s Motion to Dismiss those allegations, Aristocrat’s purported harm arising from those claims carries little weight against a finding of good cause supporting a discovery stay. And in any event, this Court has stayed all further briefing on Aristocrat’s Motion for Preliminary Injunction pending resolution of L&W’s Motion to Dismiss, illustrating that any prejudice based on Aristocrat’s pursuit of injunctive relief is outweighed by the need to resolve L&W’s Motion to Dismiss. ECF No. 61. Accordingly, Aristocrat cannot establish any clear error in the Order’s rejection of Aristocrat’s contentions of prejudice.

Moreover, Aristocrat’s other points of error are without merit or support. First, Aristocrat’s contention that “the Order incorrectly suggests that Aristocrat could have brought this action and sought injunctive relief months earlier than it did” is wrong. Objection at 8. The Order correctly identifies that Aristocrat could have moved for injunctive relief as early as October 2023 (when the

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1 Dragon Train games were showcased at a Las Vegas gaming expo) because Aristocrat was plainly  
 2 aware by that time that L&W planned to imminently release its Dragon Train product in the United  
 3 States, if not earlier, given Aristocrat's awareness of Dragon Train's success in Australia.  
 4 Accordingly, Aristocrat cannot seriously contend that it was "clearly erroneous" for Magistrate  
 5 Judge Couvillier to conclude that Aristocrat would not be prejudiced by a stay given that Aristocrat  
 6 delayed many months in seeking relief and, at the time of the Order, still had not moved for  
 7 injunctive relief. Nor does Aristocrat plausibly contend that a finding of no prejudice is precluded  
 8 simply because Aristocrat communicated with L&W's counsel before initiating this lawsuit. *See*  
 9 *id.*

10 Next, Aristocrat's assertion that it "identify[d] targeted discovery that Aristocrat sought in  
 11 connection with its preliminary injunction motion," *id.* at 9, does not demonstrate that the Order  
 12 clearly erred in finding that a stay would not prejudice Aristocrat. Notwithstanding that "targeted  
 13 discovery" has nothing to do with prejudice to Aristocrat resulting from a stay, Aristocrat's  
 14 discovery requests, which it had already served on L&W, were in no way limited to information  
 15 related to its then-forthcoming preliminary injunction motion. *See* ECF No. 41 at Exs. B and C.  
 16 Nor did Aristocrat's identification of certain "priority" requests purport to relieve L&W from the  
 17 undue burden of responding to the totality of the requests that Aristocrat served, which Aristocrat  
 18 does not dispute are "broad reaching, aimed at their ultimate claims and, admittedly, not necessary  
 19 for responding to defendants' Motion to Dismiss." Order at 6. And tellingly, Aristocrat entirely  
 20 fails to address that the Order expressly found that L&W's prior production of "voluminous  
 21 documents" relieved any prejudice resulting from a stay. *Id.* Accordingly, Aristocrat fails to  
 22 identify any clear error or finding "contrary to law" related to the Order's finding that Aristocrat  
 23 would not be prejudiced by a discovery stay. That finding remains well-reasoned and supported by  
 24 the record, and it should not be reversed simply because Aristocrat disagrees with the outcome.

25 . . . . .

26 . . . . .

27

**D. MAGISTRATE JUDGE COUVILLIER DID NOT ERR IN FINDING UNDUE BURDEN**

Finally, Aristocrat does not establish that the Order clearly erred by finding that Aristocrat’s “broad reaching” discovery “is unduly burdensome” where “no determination has been made about whether plaintiffs have stated a claim.” *Id.* Aristocrat’s impermissibly-broad discovery requests regarding insufficiently-pled claims, which would irrefutably impose significant time, cost, and burden on L&W, support Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s conclusions that a stay of discovery is warranted.

First, Aristocrat wrongly urges that a stay is “clearly erroneous” because the Order did not find that Aristocrat’s discovery is irrelevant to its current claims—claims which are the subject of L&W’s pending Motion to Dismiss—under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26. *See* Objection at 9-10. Aristocrat’s argument misses the point. Whether Aristocrat’s discovery requests are within the permissible scope of discovery framed by its current insufficiently-pled claims is irrelevant because L&W’s Motion to Dismiss “has the potential to simplify the claims and the scope of discovery in this case.”

*Free Speech Found., Inc. v. Philadelphia Indem. Ins. Co.*, No. 2:23-CV-01407-MMD-BNW, 2023 WL 11802591, at \*5 (D. Nev. Dec. 22, 2023). Accordingly, an undue discovery burden is regularly established where “[b]eginning discovery now will likely lead to unnecessary or duplicative discovery[,]” such as responding to Aristocrat’s broad reaching discovery requests tailored to claims that are ultimately dismissed or significantly narrowed. *Schrader*, 2021 WL 4810324, at \*5.

Accordingly, weighing undue burden involves evaluating the cost, expense, and complexity of discovery irrespective of whether the discovery requests are ultimately relevant to those claims that are the subject of a dispositive motion. *Speaks*, 2023 WL 4561451, at \*4 (explaining that “[t]he economic burden is particularly important to establishing good cause”). That is exactly what Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s Order does here. L&W supported its Motion to Stay with evidence that responding to Aristocrat’s discovery requests would impose significant time, cost, and burden on L&W and involve complex cross-border discovery across dozens of potential witnesses, spanning multiple different products, and likely implicating large volumes of documents to be reviewed and produced. ECF No. 41 at 8-9, 13-17. Aristocrat’s Objection does not dispute that its

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1 discovery requests impose these costs and burdens, which courts routinely find support staying  
 2 discovery pending a dispositive motion. *See Jaramillo*, 2021 WL 5826312, at \*4 (finding good  
 3 cause for a stay where plaintiff “does not dispute that the allegations implicate dozens of witnesses”  
 4 or that “a large volume of documents will likely need to be reviewed and produced”); *Free Speech*  
 5 *Found., Inc.*, 2023 WL 11802591, at \*4 (granting a stay where plaintiffs’ complaint did not support  
 6 plaintiffs’ assurances that the case will “turn on the testimony of three of four witness [sic], and a  
 7 small volume of documents”). Therefore, Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s finding that commencing  
 8 discovery would unduly burden L&W was not “clearly erroneous” or “contrary to law.”

9 Importantly, as Magistrate Judge Couvillier’s Order recognizes, Aristocrat’s discovery  
 10 requests are plainly *not* narrowly tailored to any permissible scope of discovery. Order at 5-6.  
 11 Aristocrat’s Objection does not argue otherwise. As L&W described in its Motion to Stay,  
 12 “Aristocrat has broadly demanded the production of all documents related to the entire design,  
 13 development, and functionality of both Jewel of the Dragon and Dragon Train, including all  
 14 technical and mathematical information and both products’ highly confidential and proprietary  
 15 source code” as well as “all documents concerning nearly every non-technical aspect of these  
 16 games, including marketing, promotion, advertising, pricing, distribution, and every “sale or  
 17 placement” of Jewel of the Dragon and Dragon Train “anywhere in the world.” ECF No. 41 at 13.  
 18 And as L&W previously explained, simply objecting to the scope of Aristocrat’s discovery does  
 19 not relieve L&W from the undue burden of engaging in discovery because such objections “are  
 20 necessarily impeded where, as here, the allegations in the Complaint are so impermissibly vague  
 21 that Aristocrat could argue ‘relevance’ potentially encompasses any and all aspects of L&W’s  
 22 games.” ECF No. 48 at 12. Accordingly, Magistrate Judge Couvillier did not err in concluding  
 23 that the impermissible breadth of Aristocrat’s discovery requests further supports finding undue  
 24 burden on L&W associated with responding to discovery based on claims that are subject to  
 25 dismissal. *See Anders v. Cal. State Univ., Fresno*, No. 1:21-CV-00179-AWI-BAM, 2021 WL  
 26 3021454, at \*4 (E.D. Cal. July 16, 2021) (granting stay in light of defendant’s arguments  
 27

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1       “concerning the overbroad and burdensome nature of Plaintiffs’ pending discovery requests”); *cf.*  
 2       *Trzaska v. Int’l Game Tech.*, No. 2:10-CV-02268-JCM, 2011 WL 1233298, at \*4 (D. Nev. Mar.  
 3       29, 2011) (explaining difficulty in deciding a stay “where no discovery requests have yet been  
 4       served and the court lacks the ability to assess the breadth of the discovery and the prejudice, if any,  
 5       that a defendant will suffer in responding to the requests.”).

6       Further, Aristocrat entirely ignores the Order’s finding that the type and breadth of  
 7       discovery Aristocrat seeks is unduly burdensome because Aristocrat and L&W are direct  
 8       competitors. Order at 6. Accordingly, the issuance of a protective order does not automatically  
 9       resolve the burden on L&W of producing its highly proprietary product information to its direct  
 10       competitor.

11       Lastly, Aristocrat’s demands that L&W “prioritize” certain discovery only *illustrates* that  
 12       commencing discovery will impose an undue burden on L&W. Before L&W even served its  
 13       responses and objections to Aristocrat’s discovery requests, Aristocrat demanded L&W produce  
 14       numerous categories of documents that Aristocrat unilaterally deemed a “priority” within ten days  
 15       of its request, and on the same day L&W was due to serve its objections and responses. ECF No.  
 16       45 at Ex. I.<sup>2</sup> And as discussed in L&W’s Opposition to Aristocrat’s now-withdrawn Motion to Lift  
 17       the Stay,<sup>3</sup> Aristocrat’s “priority” requests are anything but “narrowly tailored.” *See* Objection at  
 18       11; ECF No. 62 at 8-9. Instead, these requests seek all the highly confidential design and  
 19       development information regarding L&W’s directly competing product across the multi-year  
 20       development cycle of that product, all before Aristocrat has even identified a protectable trade  
 21       secret. *See* ECF No. 62 at 8-9; *Gibson*, 2023 WL 4455726, at \*4 (finding undue burden under

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 24       <sup>2</sup> In advance of the parties’ conference to discuss Aristocrat’s “priority” requests on May 20, 2024,  
 25       Aristocrat’s counsel continued to demand that L&W produce the requested information “no later  
 26       than the end of [the] month” and made clear that its requests “are intended to allow for an initial,  
 27       expedited, targeted set” but that “Aristocrat reserves the right to request additional searches.” ECF  
 28       No. 55 at Ex. C.

23       <sup>3</sup> Aristocrat withdrew its Motion to Lift the Discovery Stay on June 14, 2024, in light of the Court’s  
 24       order that further briefing on Aristocrat’s preliminary injunction motion would be deferred until  
 25       L&W’s Motion to Dismiss is resolved. ECF No. 63.

1 plaintiffs' "tailored discovery" because "even limited discovery would be expansive given the  
 2 broad underlying allegations involving multiple, complex organizations"). Accordingly,  
 3 Aristocrat's undeniable proclivity to unilaterally impose unreasonable timelines for overly-broad  
 4 requests, based on its own priorities, without regard to L&W's objections, and before negotiating  
 5 agreeable search terms or other reasonable measures in advance to ensure discovery is proportional,  
 6 shows that discovery in this case will assuredly be unduly burdensome. *See Free Speech Found.,*  
 7 *Inc.*, 2023 WL 11802591, at \*4 (finding undue burden where "[p]laintiffs themselves previously  
 8 admitted that they will 'extensively explore' answers to certain questions in discovery").

9 **IV. CONCLUSION**

10 For the foregoing reasons, L&W respectfully requests that the Court deny Aristocrat's  
 11 Objection to the Order Granting a Stay of Discovery.

12 Dated: June 18th, 2024

CAMPBELL & WILLIAMS

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*and SciPlay Corporation*

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 18th day of June, 2024, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing **Defendants' Opposition to Plaintiffs' Objections to Order Granting Motion to Stay** to be served via the United States District Court CM/ECF system on all parties or persons requiring notice.

/s/ Philip R. Erwin  
An employee of Campbell & Williams

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